

❖ ***"Regardless of your academic major, you'll find the Signal Regiment to be a rewarding, challenging branch. The skills you'll develop in professional schools and on the job are more critical today than ever before as the Army enters the Knowledge Age."***  
***-- LTC Steve Bullock, Signal Corps branch representative, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.***

### Career as a Signal officer

Most Signal lieutenants attend the Signal Officer Basic Course located at Fort Gordon, Ga., then are assigned to Signal battalions at company level to gain troop-leading experience and to enhance technical and tactical competence. How-

ever, due to a shortage of Signal officers at the grades of captain and major, the Army assigns some lieutenants to captain positions as battalion Signal officers (S-6s) in combat arms, combat support and combat service support units.

Lieutenants should expect to serve in company-level positions to develop leadership and Signal skills and, when appropriate, to complement this with staff experience at battalion level. Typical jobs include platoon leader, company executive officer, company operations officer, Signal battalion staff officer and Signal officer (S-6) of a non-Signal battalion.

The focus during this phase should be on acquiring and refining troop-leading, coordination, logistics, technical and administrative skills, as well as the branch-unique technical skills required to plan, install, operate and maintain Signal equipment and systems. In addition to branch-unique tasks, Signal lieutenants should also become proficient in common core tasks. Before promotion to captain, officers should possess an excellent knowledge of the Signal branch and a basic knowledge of combined arms principles. This includes practical experience in

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### The Signal experience

*"The Signal Regiment has provided me unequaled opportunities to remain on the cutting edge of technology. During Operation Desert Storm, I provided division communications support in Southwest Asia. While stationed in South Korea, I was in charge of communications for Patriot missile batteries protecting U.S. and allied airbases. Currently I am a company commander in a strategic Signal battalion at Fort Detrick. This unit provides 24-hour continuous communications support through the Defense Satellite Communications System to the National Command Authority, Department of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff. Also, we have the satellite terminal that has the JCS-directed contingency mission to provide DSCS restoral in the event of a catastrophic failure to any of the terminals located around the world. These assignments have all contributed to keeping me well-rounded by allowing me to tap into continuously changing technologies. Soon I will be getting another opportunity to expand my knowledge and experience when I take command of the Army's only active combat camera company. I am excited to be moving into the field of visual information, providing warfighting commanders-in-chief tactical visual information documenting ground, sea and air operations. I look forward to more challenges as the Signal Regiment takes huge strides into the 21<sup>st</sup> century."*

CPT Maya Filbert's Signal unit uses satellite assets ranging from mobile to larger, longer-range terminals.

